

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – current 6/20/2017

June 7, 2017 -- 2pm – 4pm

Conference Room 4A

4600 Valley Rd, Lincoln NE

I. Introduction

II. Roll Call

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 2:15pm by Ms. Vonda Apking, Chairperson in Conference Room 4A, Lincoln, NE

Board Members Present: Mr. Jerry Siders, Ms. Vonda Apking, Mr. John Wyvill, Ms. Bethany Koubsky, Ms. Pam Duncan

Board Members Absent: Mr. Heath Focken, Ms. Nancy Flearl, Ms. Jessica Nickels

Interpreters: Mr. Ben Sparks & Ms. Carla Engstrom

CART: CART Services of ERI, 406 S 48th Ave, Omaha NE 68132

Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney

Public: Ms. Crystal Pierce, Ms. Deb Teller

III. **Approval of Agenda** – Mr. Siders accepted the agenda as written and Ms. Flearl seconded. All in favor - passed

IV. **Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2017** – Conversation about who attended the last meeting. Ms. Duncan accepted the minutes as written and Ms. Koubsky seconded. All in favor - passed

V. Public Comments

- Ms. Crystal Pierce noted that she came as an observer to represent Nebraska Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf (NeRID).

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

Ms. Duncan made the motion to go into executive session, Ms. Koubsky seconded the motion. The Committee when into Executive Session at 1:26 pm.

Executive Session was held

The meeting was opened back up at 1:35 pm.

- **Complaints – Case # 2501 and Case # 2502**

- i. Ms. Koubsky made a motion to dismiss Case # 2501 due to no follow-up by the complainant. Ms Duncan seconded. All in favor – passed.

Ms. Duncan recused herself at 1:30pm and returned to the meeting at 1:35pm. Ms. Duncan abstained from voting on Case # 2502.

- ii. Ms. Koubsky made a motion to dismiss Case # 2502 due to no follow-up by the complainant. Mr. Siders seconded. Ms. Koubsky, Mr. Siders, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Apking all approved – passed.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Mr. John C. Wyvill

- NCDHH is doing a labor market analysis on the staff interpreter vacancy. NCDHH is not filling the vacancy at this time. Discussion on what the process involves, and the difficulty of finding a qualified interpreter at the rate that NCDHH is allowed to pay.
- The Advocacy Specialist that you met at the meeting in March, Aubrey Jazwierski decided that she wanted to go back to work at Health and Human Services. NCDHH will have an announcement the end of June on our new Advocacy Specialist for the Omaha office.
- Discussion of how the budget for NCDHH and how that is affecting our day to day operations.
- Legislative Update – NCDHH has received legislative authorization to renew our hearing aid insurance. Will continue to try to find a solution to the problem of lack of hearing aids for those that cannot afford them.

LB – 269, is the open captioning bill for movie theaters. There was a hearing earlier this year. The bill got a lot of play in the press. Unfortunately, the bill did not advance this past session. The bill will be held over until next session. Conversation on the future of this bill and what it all entails for the various movie theaters.

- NCDHH will soon be advertising for a full time Advocacy Specialist position in our Kearney office.
- Lincoln Salt Dogs game on June 28th
- NCDHH will be setting the date for the Omaha Zoo event in September, 2017.
- NCDHH will be hosting an Educational Summit on October 21, 2017 at UNO.

IX. Public Comments

Ms. Duncan requested to add this to new business – Discussion was held on the complaint

process against sign language interpreters, in addition to the documentation of. Ms. Duncan would like for individuals with sign language as their native language to be able to have their complaints videotaped, and their answers to questions regarding the complaint be videotaped. Discussion on if this method would work or not.

Ms. Apking commented on the process with Health and Human Services Licensing Department, and the process that they have in place with having a separate agency who does investigations.

Mr. Wyvill asked if there was a communication barrier preventing complaints from coming forward, if that is the case NCDHH is open to exploring other avenues for the complaint process to be more accessible.

Mr. Wyvill added that the full commission board will be considering making changes to the interpreter referral system at our next board meeting. NCDHH is looking at ways to address professional action of interpreters that don't show or failure to confirm. Conversation about the violations that interpreters can have.

Discussion on the number of CEUs for ethics is 1.3, meaning that .3 of interpreters CEUs needs to be based on ethics. Should we be looking at an ethics workshop that is to be held, possibly on a yearly basis to review the code of professional conduct? Discussion on having NeRID be a part of the training process.

Ms. Crystal Pierce requested to add that there is an on-line submit form for the complainant to fill out.

Ms. Pierce also asked that when she is in the community interpreting and another interpreter ask her questions, who does she refer them to at NCDHH for assistance? Since there is currently no staff interpreter, these questions would be referred to Mr. Wyvill. Ms. Duncan added that she would suggest that the interpreter talk to another seasoned sign language interpreter, or the president of NeRID for assistance.

Ms. Pierce also asked for clarification on who to refer other interpreters to that have questions on how to get into the educational interpreting field. Mr. Wyvill responded that these interpreters should get in touch with him regarding their questions.

Ms. Duncan suggested developing a resource guide for NCDHH to have that will assist in fielding the questions that come into the agency.

X. Announcements

XI. Next Meeting Date

- September 1, 2017 at 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha, NE from 1pm – 3pm.

Mr. Siders motioned to adjourn the meeting 2:40pm and was seconded by Ms. Duncan. All in favor – passed.